

And when they go bankrupt, thousands and thousands of people lose their pensions and the jobs are lost. Now is our opportunity.

Just yesterday, I know there were a lot of statements made by those on the other side of the aisle that we should stop this bill; it is a bad bill; we should not be addressing it and using postponing procedural moves and delay. But we just can't delay anymore.

I am delighted with the outcome of the vote today which shows that this body is ready to take up this important issue. We will be going to that issue tomorrow, and I look forward to addressing, through debate and amendments, an issue that will have a huge impact on people's lives both right now and well into the future.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

DUSTIN L. KENDALL

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a young man from Arkansas who recently lost his life while heroically serving our Nation in uniform. SPC Dustin Kendall will be remembered by those who knew him as a charming and charismatic young man, who was beloved by his friends and family and had a special gift for bringing smiles to the faces of everyone he met.

Growing up with a brother and four sisters, Specialist Kendall spent his childhood as many children do: playing sports, causing mischief, and enjoying the company of his family and friends. As the son of missionaries, he spent his childhood in a variety of places and wherever he ended up, his outgoing and friendly nature was sure to follow. These qualities allowed him to make friends quickly and adapt to new surroundings, and that was certainly the case when his family moved to Bryant, an Arkansas town just south of Little Rock, in 2002. In Bryant, Specialist Kendall worked at a local restaurant, where he became a favorite of the regular customers, while he finished his schooling. Later, when his parents moved to Europe to continue their missionary work, he stayed in Arkansas to continue classes at the University of Central Arkansas in nearby Conway. At UCA, he studied business but was considering following one of his passions and pursuing a career in golf, possibly in golf-course design.

As a student, Specialist Kendall joined the U.S. Army Reserve for primarily financial reasons but, over time, came to enjoy his military life and was ultimately considering a ca-

reer in the Army. Upon signing up for active duty last summer, he was stationed at Fort Carson, CO, before being deployed with his unit to Iraq in November of 2005. In Iraq, Specialist Kendall served with the 68th Armor Regiment of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, where he served with distinction, most recently as a bodyguard for an Army colonel. Tragically, he was killed on January 15 in Baqouba, Iraq, when his military humvee was accidentally struck by an American Abrams tank. He was 21 years old.

A memorial service was held for Specialist Kendall on January 21, in Summerville, SC. Many of his friends and his family gathered to remember the charming young man with the infectious smile and to honor the brave soldier who had given his life in the fight for freedom. Although words cannot convey the sorrow felt by his loved ones, I hope they may find some solace remembering the way he lived his life and knowing that he touched the lives of so many others. My thoughts and prayers go out to his parents, Brandi Lee and Penelope Jean, his brother and his sisters, and to all those who knew and loved him. His time with us was far too short but his spirit will live on in us forever.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

In February, 2004 in Durham, NC, Sean Ethan Owen, a 23-year-old gay man, was shot to death. According to police, three men wanted to steal a car and targeted Owen on a gay chat line. They then coaxed Owen to meet them for a date, then beat him, shot him, and threw him into the Eno River.

Matthew Lawrence Taylor, Shelton Deangelo Epps, and Derrick Arness Maiden beat their victim before attempting to rob him of anything. According to pathologists, Owen probably died relatively slowly by drowning in the river.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

POSTAL REFORM

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to engage the chairman of the Homeland

Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in a colloquy regarding a provision contained within the manager's amendment to S. 662, the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act.

The manager's amendment offered by Senator COLLINS changes the language of section 3622 concerning rate and service complaints that are brought to the Postal Regulatory Commission. I ask the Senator to explain the purpose and intent of this change. I particularly want to be sure that this amendment to the bill is not intended to, and does not deprive the Postal Regulatory Commission of its power to consider complaints relating to rates and the provision of postal services.

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the gentleman from Missouri. He is correct. The amendment I propose to section 3622 does not and is not intended to preclude any interested party from securing a hearing before the Postal Regulatory Commission if it believes that the rates being charged or the manner in which services being provided to that mailer or mailer group violates the act. It is my hope that in conference that we can work to assure that the Postal Regulatory Commission does not become embroiled in attempts to resolve disputes as to internal affairs or purely operational decisions of the Postal Service. This provision is intended to protect the rights of the mailing public against the potential for monopoly abuse or other unjust or unfair conduct by the Postal Service in terms of rates charged or the nature of service provided.

Mr. BOND. I thank the chairman.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on February 2, 2006, I was absent for the roll-call vote on the motion to waive the Congressional Budget Act on Conrad amendment No. 2729 to Senate amendment 2702 to H.R. 4297, Tax Relief Extension Reconciliation Act of 2005. My absence was due to a previously scheduled speaking engagement at the Africa Dinner in conjunction with the National Prayer Breakfast. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to waive. Additionally, I would like to note that this absence did not affect the final outcome of the vote.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" TALLMAN

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to honor William "Bill" Tallman. Bill was the meteorologist in charge at the Aberdeen office of the National Weather Service. At the time of his death, Bill was on a voluntary, temporary assignment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency helping with the relief efforts in the gulf coast region that was devastated by hurricanes this last season.